Ray's Latest Lawyer Seeks Petitions for New Trial

By JAN AVENT
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"I did not shoot Martin Luther King," the taped voice of James Earl Ray told persons attending an ISSUES lecture by his attorney yesterday at the University Center.

"Just saying that don't mean too much," Ray continued. His comments had been taped by Mark Lane during his visit with the convicted killer Wednesday at Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros.

"But we know enough now so this case can be resolved if there is a trial. Most people thinks there has been a trial," Ray said. "Not only has there not been a criminal trial, there has not been a civil case. This could be resolved in a civil case."

RAY'S COMMENTS were made when Mr. Lane asked him if we wanted to add anything to what his lawyer was going to tell the audience at UT. Mr. Lane, the latest in a series of lawyers retained by Ray, said he had marched with Dr. King and had been arrested in several cities.

After Mr. Lane presented his theory of how the prime suspect in the murder of the Civil Rights leader should be the FBI, he asked for a vote from those attending the lecture on whether they thought Ray merits a new trial. About 75 persons were in favor and only two voted no.

Mr. Lane said that, according to the law, if a judge dies or becomes insane during a prisoner's application for a new trial, the new trial must automatically be granted. But he said although the original trial judge died while Ray was applying for a new trial, the question has never been ruled on by appeals courts.

INFORMATION, INCLUDING that surveillence equipment that had been used to follow Dr. King's actions for years was removed an hour before his death, is locked in FBI files, Mr. Lane said. He indicated the files were not even shared with the House Select Committee on Assassinations in its investigation of Dr. King's murder.

Mark Lane

"The only way (to see the files) is if there is a new trial and we subpena the documents," Mr. Lane said.

Mr. Lane circulated a petition at the lecture calling for a new trial for Ray, for release of the FBI files, and for freeing from a mental institution of a woman who reportedly saw a man leave the boarding house from which Dr. King was shot. Mr. Lane said the woman is being held in the institution against her will.

IN A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER session, Mr. Lane said Hustler magazine owner Larry Flynt had talked with Ray, and had planned to publish a special newspaper about the murder of Dr. King. However, Mr. Flynt has been hospitalized since he was shot in Lawrenceville, Ga., where he was standing trial on obsecenity charges.

Mr. Lane said officials think the tips of the bullets that struck Mr. Flynt were treated with a poison, since various infections from the wounds are not responding well to treatment.

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